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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Applicant(s): Tomoya YOSHIDA

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For : ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM,
ADMINISTRATION APPARATUS,
RELAY SERVER, ADMINISTRATION
APPARATUS AND ADMINISTRATION
METHOD

Art Unit : 2154

Examiner : Joshua Joo

Appeal No. :

This paper is being submitted
via RFS-Web on December 10, 2007

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APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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Applicant hereby appeals the Final Rejection of claims 14-30
of the above-identified application as set forth in the Final
Office Action dated April 18, 2007.

A Notice of Appeal was filed in the Patent Office with the
appropriate fee, along with a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review
on July 16, 2007.

On October 10, 2007, a Notice of Panel Decision on Pre-Appeal Brief Review was issued, in which the applicant was directed to proceed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

Accordingly, this Appeal Brief is being timely filed by the due date of December 10, 2007, which is extended by one month by Petition filed concurrently herewith from the due date of November 10, 2007, for responding to the Notice of Panel Decision on Pre-Appeal Brief Review.

The fee of \$510.00 for filing a brief in support of an appeal as set forth in 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2) is being paid by credit card herewith.

In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1378.

(i) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is KONICA MINOLTA HOLDINGS, INC. (a successor company, due to merger, of the assignee of record, KONICA CORPORATION), a corporation of Japan, having a business address at 2-7-5 Owada-machi, Hachioji-shi, Tokyo, 192-0045, JAPAN.

(ii) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

(iii) STATUS OF CLAIMS

This is an appeal from the Final Rejection of claims 14-30.
The appealed claims are set forth in the attached Appendix.

Claims 1-13 are canceled.

(iv) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been filed subsequent to the Final Office
Action issued on April 18, 2007.

Thus, the appealed claims are claims 14-30 as set forth in
the Amendment filed on October 19, 2006, in which claims 14-29
were amended.

(v) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention relates to an administration system
capable of administrating an administrated apparatus through a
network, as well as to an administrated apparatus and to an
administering apparatus.

As explained in the Background of the Invention section of
the specification (pages 1 and 2), conventional administration
technology exists that is capable of monitoring an administrated
apparatus remotely. In this conventional technology, when

trouble occurs in the apparatus, the apparatus can send a report to an administration center. Conventionally, it is necessary, for example, to send a service engineer to the site of the administrated apparatus in order to restore the administrated apparatus experiencing trouble. Therefore, the user is required to wait, without using the apparatus, until the service engineer arrives.

The present inventor has conceived of restoring an administrated apparatus experiencing trouble through Internet. However, firewalls are often provided between local networks and the Internet. A firewall prevents free access to a local network in which the administrated apparatus is provided.

Significantly, the present invention provides an administration system which enables an administrated apparatus to be restored using information provided via the Internet, even though the administrated apparatus is provided in a local network behind a firewall.

More specifically, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 14, an apparatus administration system (Fig. 1) is provided which comprises: an administrated apparatus (11) located in a first local network (NU) and connected to the Internet (N) through a first firewall server (12) of the first local network; an administrating apparatus (21) located in a second local network (NS) and connected to the

Internet (N) through a second firewall server (22) of the second local network; and a relaying server (31) located outside the first and second local networks (NU and NS) and connected to the Internet (N) for enabling the administrated apparatus (11) and the administrating apparatus (21) to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet (N). (See page 10, line 1 to page 11, line 5.)

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 14, the administrated apparatus comprises: a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet (page 27, lines 10-23 and steps S206 to S207 of Fig. 5), an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and obtains restoration work information based on the trouble type information from the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet (page 28, line 17 to page 29, line 23 and steps S214 to S219 in Fig. 6), and a control section which controls the administrated apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information (page 29, line 23 to page 31, line 7, and steps S216-S219 in Fig. 6).

Moreover, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 14, the restoration work information is provided to the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the

second firewall server and the Internet (page 29, lines 18-21, and page 30, lines 7-14), and the relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the administrated apparatus (page 10, lines 11-14, and page 27, lines 14-16). (See also page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 20.)

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 25, an administrated apparatus (11) is provided for an apparatus administration system (Fig. 1), wherein the apparatus administration system includes: (i) the administrated apparatus (11) located in a first local network (NT) and connected to the Internet (N) through a first firewall server (12) of the first local network, (ii) an administrating apparatus (21) located in a second local network (NS) and connected to the Internet (N) through a second firewall (22) server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server (31) located outside of the first and second firewall servers (12 and 22) and connected to the Internet (N) for enabling the administrated apparatus (11) and the administrating apparatus (21) to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet (N). (See page 10, line 1 to page 11, line 5.)

As recited in independent claim 25, the administrated apparatus comprises: a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the Internet (page 27, lines 10-23, and steps S206 and S207 of

Fig. 5), wherein the trouble type information is retrieved from the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the Internet (page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 20); an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and retrieves restoration work information from the relaying server through the Internet (page 28, line 17 to page 29, line 23 and steps S214 to S219 in Fig. 6), wherein the restoration work information has been transmitted from the administrating apparatus to the relaying server through the Internet based on the trouble type information (page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 20, and page 30, lines 7-14); and a control section which controls the administrated apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information (page 29, line 23 to page 31, line 7).

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 28, an administrating apparatus (21) is provided for an apparatus administration system (Fig. 1), wherein the apparatus administration system includes: (i) an administrated apparatus (11) located in a first local network (NT) and connected to the Internet (N) through a first firewall server (12) of the first local network, (ii) the administrating apparatus (21) located in a second local network (NS) and connected to the Internet (N) through a second firewall server (22) of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server

(31) located outside of the first and second firewall servers (12 and 22) and connected to the Internet (N) for enabling the administrated apparatus (11) and the administrating apparatus (21) to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet (N). (See page 10, line 1 to page 11, line 5).

As recited in independent claim 28, the administrating apparatus comprises: an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and retrieves trouble type information from the relaying server through the Internet (page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 20), wherein the trouble type information has been transmitted from the administrated apparatus to the relaying server through the Internet (page 27 lines 10-23, and steps S206 and S207 of Fig. 5); and a transmitting section which transmits restoration work information to the relaying server through the Internet (page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 20, and page 30, lines 7-14), wherein the restoration work information corresponds to the trouble type information and is transmitted to the relaying server for retrieval by the administrated apparatus from the relaying server through the Internet (page 4, line 16 to page 5, line 20).

With the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claims 14, 25 and 28, restoration work information is provided to the administrated apparatus, even though the administrated apparatus is connected to the Internet through a

first firewall server, because the relaying server is provided, and the administrated apparatus transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet and accesses the relaying server based on the trouble type information so that the administrated apparatus can obtain restoration work information corresponding to the trouble type information from the relaying server through the first firewall server and the Internet and can conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information.

Significantly, therefore, the restoration work information can be provided to the administrated apparatus through the first firewall server. Since this operation is conducted through the first firewall server, even though the operation is conducted through the Internet, the operation can be conducted with high security. As a result, since a direct connection such as a telephone or ISDN line is not needed, the apparatus administration system of the present invention can be constructed inexpensively without employing a direct connection.

(vi) GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection presented for review are whether claims 14-23 and 25-29 are obvious under 35 USC 103 in view of the combination of USP 6,240,456 ("Teng et al"), USP 5,887,216

("Motoyama") and USP 6,362,870 ("Mui et al"), and whether claims 24 and 30 are obvious under 35 USC 103 in view of the combination of Teng et al, Motoyama, Mui et al and USP 6,618,162 ("Wiklof et al").

(vii) ARGUMENT

Rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al

Re: Claims 14-23

Teng et al discloses a printer 50, a network client 20, and a network server 49, which the Examiner contends correspond to an administrated apparatus (the printer 50), an administrating apparatus (the network client 20), and a relaying server (the network server 49). As recognized by the Examiner, according to Teng et al, the network server 49 may be connected to the network client 20 via the Internet. The Examiner also asserts that Teng et al discloses transmitting trouble type information from the printer 50 to the network server 50 via the Internet, retrieving the trouble type information by the network client 20 from the network server 49 via the Internet, and providing restoration work information to the network server 49 from the network client 20, and that the printer 50 performs an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information.

The Examiner acknowledges that Teng et al does not disclose that the printer 50 is located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server, that the network client 20 is provided in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server, and that the network server is located outside of the first and second local networks. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Motoyama to supply the missing teachings of Teng et al.

The Examiner further acknowledges that the combination of Motoyama with Teng et al would not teach that the printer 50 of Teng et al accesses the network server 49 to obtain restoration work information. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Mui et al to supply the missing teachings of Teng et al and Motoyama.

As explained below, however, it is respectfully submitted that even if the Examiner's interpretation of Teng et al were considered to be reasonable, Motoyama et al is not properly combinable with Teng et al. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that even if Motoyama were combined with Teng et al, the logical combination thereof would not result in the structure suggested by the Examiner. Still further, it is respectfully submitted that the even if the disclosure of Mui et al is considered in combination with Teng et al and Motoyama, the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claim 14 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

As recognized by the Examiner in item 17 on page 7 of the Final Office Action, Motyama discloses a monitored device in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server (such as the printer in network 16), and Motoyama discloses a monitoring device located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server (for example, a workstation in network 52). In Motoyama, the Internet is designated by 10 and is formed by the various computers and routers 12A-12I. The firewalls are designated 14 and 50 in Fig. 1 of Motoyama.

The Examiner asserts in item 18 on page 8 of the Final Office Action, and in item 7 on page 3 of the Final Office Action (in response to applicants' arguments in the Response filed on March 26, 2007), that Teng et al discloses that other means of establishing communication between computers may be used in addition to the explicitly communication techniques. The Examiner contends, moreover, that by providing firewalls as disclosed by Motoyama in the system of Teng et al, the security of the system of Teng et al would be enhanced.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that a firewall would not logically be added to the system of Teng et al. That is, in the network of Teng et al, a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) formatted message is used for communication between the network client 20 and the printer 50. That is, according to Teng et al,

an HTTP POST request containing data pertaining to a print job is submitted by the network client 20 to the Internet 68. The HTTP POST request is received by the network server 49, which parses the request and submits job data to the printer 50. Moreover, according to Teng et al, an HTTP POST message may be used to return status messages to the network client 20 in response to an HTTP POST request from the network client 20 by monitoring the status of the print job by the network server 49 and returning the status to the network client 20. See column 6, line 63 to column 7, line 15 of Teng et al. Teng et al also discloses HTTP formatted messages at, for example, column 7, line 61 to column 8, line 20.

It is respectfully pointed out that a firewall positioned between the network client 20 and the network server 49 would intercept HTTP formatted messages transmitted between the network client 20 and the network server 49. And it is respectfully submitted, therefore, that there would be no motivation to combine the teachings of Motoyama with the teachings of Teng et al in a manner that would result in applying firewalls to the system of Teng et al. In fact, this combination structure suggested by the Examiner would interrupt the workings of the system of Teng et al.

It is respectfully pointed out that, while the combination of prior art elements according to known methods to yield

predictable results may be obvious, a reasonable expectation of success of the modification is required (see, for example, MPEP 2143.02 I citing *In re Merck & Co., Inc.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986)). The Examiner's proposed modification of Teng et al, however, would, in fact, hamper or prevent the successful operation of the system of Teng et al. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's proposed combination of Motoyama with Teng et al cannot be considered reasonable.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that even if Motoyama were combinable with Teng et al, the structure recited in claim 14 still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

That is, even if first and second firewalls were provided in the system of Teng et al, the network server 49 and the printer 50 would be provided in the same local network. That is, according to Teng et al, in the network server 49, a system spooler 74 is connected to the server script component 72 via an API 76 and to the printer 50 (column 6, lines 16-18), and the system spooler 74 submits print job data to the printer 50 in a conventional manner (column 7, lines 5-8). Since the printer 50 is connected to the system spooler 74 in the same manner that the server script component 72 is connected to the system spooler 74, the printer 50 is arranged within the local network of the network server 49 just as the server script component 72 and the

system spooler 74 are provided in the same local network, as is clear from Fig. 2 of Teng et al.

Thus, considering the connection of the network client 20 to the network server 49 and the printer 50 via the wide area network in Teng et al, the network client 20 is in one local network, and the network server 49 and printer 50 are provided in another local network, and communication between the local networks takes place via the Internet. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if it were obvious to provide firewalls between the local networks of Teng et al and the Internet, the network server 49 of Teng et al would be provided in one of the local networks, and clearly could not be considered to be "a relaying server located outside the first and second local networks and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet" as recited in independent claim 14.

The Examiner appears to recognize this point in item 17 on page 7 of the Final Office Action. However, the Examiner asserts that the combination of Motoyama and Teng et al would result in a relaying server provided outside of the first and second local networks as recited in claim 14. Specifically, the Examiner contends in item 9 on page 4 of the Final Office Action that any

of elements 12A-12I of Motoyama is a relaying server as recited in claim 14.

As explained above, Motoyama is not properly combinable with Teng et al. Nevertheless, it is respectfully pointed out that according to Motoyama, elements 12A-12I merely represent the Internet. That is, according to Motoyama, "the Internet is generally designated by 10. The Internet 10 includes a plurality of interconnected computers and routers designated by 12A-12I." It is respectfully submitted that Motoyama contains no disclosure to suggest that elements 12A-12I are anything other than various components of the Internet. Indeed, Motoyama explicitly states that elements 12A-12I are merely parts of the Internet. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's interpretation of Motoyama whereby any of the elements 12A-12I is a relaying server as recited in claim 14 goes beyond and is clearly unsupported by the actual disclosure of Motoyama.

By contrast, claim 14 recites that the relaying server has specific structural features. For example, claim 14 does not merely recite that the relaying server routes data between the first and second local networks as implied by the Examiner. Indeed, according to claim 14, the relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the administrated apparatus. Moreover, the relaying server has a structure whereby the administrated apparatus and the

administrating apparatus access the relaying server to obtain information (restoration work information and trouble type information, respectively).

It is respectfully submitted that an element that merely "routes data between the first and [second] local networks," which the Examiner asserts is disclosed by Motoyama in item 9 on page 4 of the Final Office Action clearly does not comprise a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the administrated apparatus, and clearly is not accessed by an administrated apparatus. By contrast, according to the Examiner's own interpretation of Motoyama, data is merely routed through the Internet according to Motoyama.

Thus, Motoyama et al clearly does not disclose a relaying server connected to the Internet to enable the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet. Instead, Motoyama et al merely discloses a representation of the Internet. Indeed, it is respectfully pointed out that Motoyama et al does not disclose any communication performed by an administrated apparatus or an administrating apparatus in the manner recited in claim 14 and therefore does not suggest that any of the computers and routers 12A-12I thereof are a relaying server as recited in claim 14. That is, Motoyama et al clearly fails to suggest an administrated apparatus which transmits information to a relaying

server (one of the elements 12A-12I of Motoyama et al, according to the Examiner), or which accesses the relaying server to obtain information from the relaying server (one of the elements 12A-12I of Motoyama et al, according to the Examiner) that has been provided to the relaying server by an administrating apparatus. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Motoyama et al clearly does not in any way suggest that one of the elements 12A-12I (of the Internet) is a relaying server.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that one of ordinary skill in the art having common sense would interpret the Internet 10 including components 12A-12I described by Motoyama as the Internet. And as noted above, it is respectfully pointed out that Teng et al discloses that the network client 20 and the network server 49 communicate via the Internet. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of the Internet 10 including elements 12A-12I by Motoyama does not represent any more than the Internet, which is also disclosed by Teng et al. And it is respectfully submitted that it is not reasonable to assign additional structural features to "the Internet" as disclosed by both Motoyama and Teng et al without any disclosure of any such additional structural features in either Motoyama or Teng et al.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Motoyama and Teng et al were properly combinable to supply

firewalls in the system of Teng et al, the resultant structure still would not logically include a relaying server having the structure recited in independent claim 14.

Mui et al, moreover, has merely been cited as disclosing a printer which "pulls" information from a source (see item 19 on page 8 of the Final Office Action). Thus, even if it were considered reasonable to modify Teng et al based on Mui et al such that the printer 50 pulls information from the network server 49, Mui et al still does not disclose any of the features missing from the combination of Teng et al and Motoyama identified above. That is, the Examiner acknowledges in item 13 on page 5 of the Office Action that Mui et al does not disclose restoration work information, or communication through the Internet, or firewalls.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Teng et al and Motoyama suggested by the Examiner is not reasonable, and that it would not be obvious to provide firewalls in the system of Teng et al. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that even if Teng et al were modified in view of Motoyama to provide firewalls between local networks and the Internet, the resultant combination still would not achieve or render obvious the relaying server recited in claim 14. And it is respectfully pointed out that Mui et al does not disclose firewalls or a relaying server as recited in claim 14.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claim 14 clearly has not been established, because two of the cited references cannot properly be combined to achieve the structure of claim 14, and because even if all of the references were considered to be properly combinable, the resultant structure still would not logically achieve or render obvious all of the structural features recited in independent claim 14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al of independent claim 14 and of claims 15-23 depending therefrom be withdrawn.

Re: Claims 25-27

Independent claim 25 recites an administrated apparatus for an apparatus administration system that includes: (i) the administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, (ii) an administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet for enabling the

administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

As recited in independent claim 25, the administrated apparatus includes a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the Internet, wherein the trouble type information is retrieved from the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the Internet; an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and retrieves restoration work information from the relaying server through the Internet, wherein the restoration work information has been transmitted from the administrating apparatus to the relaying server through the Internet based on the trouble type information; and a control section which controls the administrated apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information.

Like claim 14, claim 25 was rejected in view of the combination of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al.

As explained hereinabove with respect to claim 14, however, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Teng et al and Motoyama suggested by the Examiner is not reasonable, and that it would not be obvious to provide firewalls in the system of Teng et al. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that even if Teng et al were modified in view of Motoyama to provide

firewalls between local networks and the Internet, the resultant combination still would not achieve or render obvious the relaying server recited in claim 25. And it is respectfully pointed out that Mui et al does not disclosure firewalls or a relaying server as recited in claim 25.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obvious of claim 25 clearly has not been established, because two of the cited references cannot properly be combined to achieve the structure of claim 25, and because even if all of the references were considered to be properly combinable, the resultant structure still would not logically achieve or render obvious all of the structural features recited in independent claim 25.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al of independent claims 25 and of claims 26 and 27 depending therefrom also be withdrawn.

Re: Claims 28 and 29

Independent claim 28 recites an administrating apparatus for an apparatus administration system that includes: (i) an administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, (ii) the administrating apparatus located in

a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

As recited in independent claim 28, the administrating apparatus includes an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and retrieves trouble type information from the relaying server through the Internet, wherein the trouble type information has been transmitted from the administrated apparatus to the relaying server through the Internet; and a transmitting section which transmits restoration work information to the relaying server through the Internet, wherein the restoration work information corresponds to the trouble type information and is transmitted to the relaying server for retrieval by the administrated apparatus from the relaying server through the Internet.

Like claim 14, claim 28 was rejected in view of the combination of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al.

As explained hereinabove with respect to claim 14, however, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Teng et al and Motoyama suggested by the Examiner is not reasonable, and that it would not be obvious to provide firewalls in the system

of Teng et al. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that even if Teng et al were modified in view of Motoyama to provide firewalls between local networks and the Internet, the resultant combination still would not achieve or render obvious the relaying server recited in claim 28. And it is respectfully pointed out that Mui et al does not disclosure firewalls or a relaying server as recited in claim 28.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obvious of claim 28 clearly has not been established, because two of the cited references cannot properly be combined to achieve the structure of claim 28, and because even if all of the references were considered to be properly combinable, the resultant structure still would not logically achieve or render obvious all of the structural features recited in independent claim 28.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al of independent claim 28 and of claim 29 depending therefrom also be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 103 in view of Teng et al, Motoyama,
Mui et al and Wiklof et al

Re: Claim 24

Claim 24 depends from claim 14, which patentably distinguishes over the combination of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al as explained in detail hereinabove. It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Wiklof et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in independent claim 14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 depending from claim 14 clearly patentably distinguishes over the combination of Teng et al, Motoyama, Mui et al, and Wiklof et al under 35 USC 103.

Re: Claim 30

Claim 30 depends from claim 28, which patentably distinguishes over the combination of Teng et al, Motoyama and Mui et al as explained in detail hereinabove. It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Wiklof et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in independent claim 28.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 30 depending from claim 28 clearly patentably distinguishes over the

combination of Teng et al, Motoyama, Mui et al, and Wiklof et al
under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that
this Board reverse the rejection of appealed claims 14-30.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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Attachments: (1) Appendix of Appealed Claims

(viii) INDEX OF APPEALED CLAIMS

14. An apparatus administration system, comprising:
an administrated apparatus located in a first local network
and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of
the first local network;

5 an administrating apparatus located in a second local
network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall
server of the second local network; and

a relaying server located outside the first and second local
networks and connected to the Internet for enabling the
10 administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to
indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet;

wherein the administrated apparatus comprises: a
transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to
the relaying server through the first firewall server and the
15 Internet, an accessing section which accesses the relaying server
and obtains restoration work information based on the trouble
type information from the relaying server through the first
firewall server and the Internet, and a control section which
controls the administrated apparatus to conduct an automatic
20 restoration process in accordance with the restoration work
information;

wherein the restoration work information is provided to the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the second firewall server and the Internet; and

25 wherein the relaying server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the administrated apparatus.

15. The apparatus administration system of claim 14, further comprising a database which stores a plurality of items of trouble type information and a plurality of items of restoration work information in correspondence with each other.

16. The apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein each of the items of trouble type information is classified as corresponding to one of a restorable trouble and a non-restorable trouble, and the stored items of restoration work
5 information correspond to the items of trouble type information classified as being restorable.

17. The apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein the relaying server provides the corresponding restoration information for retrieval by the administrated apparatus based on the trouble type information received from the
5 administrated apparatus.

18. The apparatus administration system of claim 16, wherein the relaying server judges whether or not the administrated apparatus is able to conduct the automatic restoration process by itself by accessing the database.

19. The apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein when the automatic restoration process is carried out, the transmitting section of the administrated apparatus transmits result information specifying a result of the automatic
5 restoration process to the relaying server.

20. The apparatus administration system of claim 19, wherein the administrating apparatus accesses the relaying server to obtain the result information.

21. The apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein the relaying server comprises the database.

22. The apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein the administrating apparatus comprises the database.

23. The apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein the administrated apparatus further comprises:

a detecting section which detects when a trouble occurs in the administrated apparatus; and

5 a judging section which determines a kind of the trouble; and wherein the administrated apparatus transmits the trouble type information in accordance with the determined kind of the trouble.

24. The apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein the restoration work information is periodically updated.

25. An administrated apparatus for an apparatus administration system that includes: (i) the administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local
5 network, (ii) an administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated
10 apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet, the administrated apparatus comprising:

a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relaying server through the Internet, wherein

- 15 the trouble type information is retrieved from the relaying
server by the administrating apparatus through the Internet;
an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and
retrieves restoration work information from the relaying server
through the Internet, wherein the restoration work information
20 has been transmitted from the administrating apparatus to the
relaying server through the Internet based on the trouble type
information; and
a control section which controls the administrated apparatus
to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with
25 the restoration work information.

26. The administrated apparatus of claim 25, further
comprising:

a trouble type judging section which detects a trouble
occurring in the administrated apparatus, which judges a type of
the trouble, and which generates trouble type information.

27. The administrated apparatus of claim 25, wherein when
the automatic restoration process is carried out, the
transmitting section transmits result information specifying a
result of the automatic restoration process to the relaying
server.

28. An administrating apparatus for an apparatus administration system that includes: (i) an administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, (ii) the administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet, the administrating apparatus comprising:

an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and retrieves trouble type information from the relaying server through the Internet, wherein the trouble type information has been transmitted from the administrated apparatus to the relaying server through the Internet; and

a transmitting section which transmits restoration work information to the relaying server through the Internet, wherein the restoration work information corresponds to the trouble type information and is transmitted to the relaying server for retrieval by the administrated apparatus from the relaying server through the Internet.

29. The administrating apparatus of claim 28, wherein the administrating apparatus accesses the relaying server to obtain result information regarding an automatic restoration process conducted by the administrated apparatus based on the restoration work information.

30. The administrating apparatus of claim 28, wherein the administrating apparatus updates the restoration work information.

(ix) EVIDENCE APPENDIX

Not applicable

(x) RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

Not applicable